



7\_Vue-d'Østre-Sponnevig\_HA-Grosch\_HHS.jpg

***The island of Kjeøa rose from the ocean in 6500 BC. The rising land connected the island to the mainland in 1250 BC. Today the highest hill reaches all of 59 metres. Due to its strategic location by the sailing lane into Halden, a provisional enclosed entrenchment was built in 1675 and later this was expanded into a number of earthwork fortifications in 1676-77. These served an outpost of Fredriksten Fortress and as the base of operations for forays into the county of Bohuslän in Sweden.***

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### The entrenchment at Kjeøa

The entrenchment has a strategic location by the sailing lane into Halden. A provisional enclosed wooden entrenchment was built in 1675. The Danish Governor in Norway, Ulrik Fredrik Gyldenløve, built a number of entrenchments (1676-1677) of wood, earth and stone as an outpost for Fredriksten fortress and a base of operations for forays into the county of Bohuslän in Sweden. The entrenchment had a permanent commander under the command of the fort in Fredrikshald from 1689. During the period 1698 – 1701 the entrenchment was renovated with a stone wall encircling a massive tower with bombproof rooms on the lowest floor and a battery of canons on the top. The remnants of the powder magazine and the massive central tower still exist. Danish Kings Kristian 5 (1685) and Fredrik 4 (1704) visited the entrenchment.

### Problems for the enemy

During the attack by Swedish King Charles 12 on Norway in 1716, the entrenchment effectively stopped Swedish ships from passing, and it caused problems for the enemy when a bridge was to be built across Svinesund. Citizens of the city of Halden attacked the bridge. During the military campaign launched by Charles 12 against Norway from 1716 to 1718 fortifications were built on the Swedish side of the mountains above Svinesund (Sundsborg).

### The Swedes attack

In 1716 Charles 12 fielded 900 troops who opened heavy gunfire on the fort. The 200 Norwegian soldiers defended themselves bravely as canon fire rained on Kjeøa. The Commander, Lieutenant Günther, was called on to surrender, if not the Swedish army threatened to storm the entrenchment. The Norwegians capitulated and the troops were taken prisoner. Two days later the entrenchment was levelled to the ground. Lieutenant Günther and his next in command were court-martialled and lost their officer's rank. It was claimed that they had acted dishonourably and broken regulations. The entrenchment was never rebuilt.



15-Tysk-lapegrav-på-Kjeøa\_Foto-Svein-Norheim\_DSC\_6230.jpg

## German trenches - 1940 – 1945

During World War II the German occupying forces saw fit to exploit the strategic location of Kjeøya by Svinesund, as it bordered Sweden and had a unique view across the Ringdals fjord, Single fjord, the island of Hvaler and Sweden. From here it was easy to control ship traffic into Halden. Trench systems can still be seen across the entire peninsula. The Germans ordered Norwegian citizens to do the digging. The trenches at Grønnebukt and due south and west of Sponviken entrenchment are particularly well preserved.